We claim:

1. A method of using a graphic user interface based document development system comprising the steps of:

   designing a dialog;

   associating a template with the dialog;

   saving dialog and control properties to a database; and

   designing the template.

2. The method of claim 1 where the step of designing a dialog is performed by a user without writing or compiling computer code.

3. The method of claim 1 where the step of associating a template with the dialog is performed by a user without writing or compiling computer code.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

   reading the dialog and control properties from the database; and

   displaying the dialog.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

   entering data into at least one control of the dialog to form control data; and

   inserting the control data into a document based on the template at a position marked by a bookmark.

6. The method of claim 5 where the bookmark has the same name as the control.

7. The method of claim 1 where the step of designing the template further comprises:

reading the names of controls from the database;

displaying the names as a list of bookmarks for user selection;

displaying the template; and

inserting at least one bookmark selected by a user into the template.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

inserting a bookmark name into the template at the position of each bookmark; and

deleting each bookmark name from the template prior to saving the template.

9. A method of generating a document through a graphic user interface comprising the steps:

reading dialog and control properties from a database;

constructing a dialog based on the dialog and control properties;

displaying the dialog;

the user entering data into at least one control of the dialog to form control data; and

inserting the control data into a document, based on a template which has been associated to the dialog, at a position marked by a bookmark.

10. The method of claim 9 where the dialog is not stored as computer code.

11. The method of claim 9 where the step of entering data into a control comprises selecting data from a selection of data provided by the control to form control data.

12. The method of claim 9 where the template contains bookmarks corresponding to one or more controls of the dialog.

13. A graphic user interface based document development system comprising:

a graphic user interface based dialog designer configured to:

    enable a user to design a dialog;

    enable a user to configure dialog and control properties;

    enable a user to associate at least one template with the dialog; and

    save the dialog and control properties to a database.

14. The graphic user interface based document development system of claim 13 which is further configured to enable a user to design a dialog without writing or compiling computer code.

15. The graphic user interface based document development system of claim 13 which is further configured to enable a user to configure dialog and control properties without writing or compiling computer code.

16. The graphic user interface based document development system of claim 13 which is further configured to enable a user to associate at least one template with the dialog without writing or compiling computer code.

17. The document development system of claim 13 further comprising:

    a graphic user interface based template administrator configured to enable a user to design a template by adding at least one bookmark to the template where the bookmark corresponds to a control in the dialog.

18. The document development system of claim 17 wherein the graphic user interface based template administrator is further configured to:

    read control names contained in the dialog and a template name of the template associated to the dialog from a database;

    open the template in a native application;

    display a list of bookmarks corresponding to the control names; and

    enable the user to insert at least one bookmark into the template.

19. The document development system of claim 17 where the graphic user interface based template administrator is further configured to:

    insert a bookmark name into the template at the position of each bookmark; and

    delete each bookmark name from the template prior to saving the template.

20. The graphic user interface based document development system of claim 13 further comprising a publisher configured to make a dialog and associated template available for use to end-users to generate a document.

21. The graphic user interface based document development system of claim 13 further comprising a document generator configured to:

    read dialog and control properties from the database;

    construct a dialog from the dialog and control properties;

    display the dialog;

    enable a user to enter information into or select information from controls contained in the dialog to form control data;

    command a native application to create a document based on the template associated to the dialog; and

    insert the control data into the document at bookmark positions, where each bookmark corresponds to a control in the dialog.

22. A program storage device or signals readable by a computer, tangibly embodying instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of enabling a user to operate a graphic user interface based document development system, the method comprising:

    enabling the user to design a dialog;

    enabling the user to associate a template with the dialog;

    saving dialog and control properties to a database; and

enabling a user to design the template.

23. The program storage device or signals readable by a computer, tangibly embodying instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of enabling a user to operate a graphic user interface based document development system of claim 22 further comprising enabling the user to design a dialog without writing or compiling computer code.

24. The program storage device or signals readable by a computer, tangibly embodying instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of enabling a user to operate a graphic user interface based document development system of claim 22 further comprising enabling the user to associate a template with the dialog without writing or compiling computer code.

25. A program storage device or signals readable by a computer, tangibly embodying instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for enabling a user to generate a document through a graphic user interface, the method comprising:

reading dialog and control properties from a database;

constructing a dialog based on the dialog and control properties;

displaying the dialog;

enabling the user to enter data into at least one control of the dialog to form control data; and

enabling the user to insert the control data into a document, based on a template which has been associated to the dialog, at a position marked by a bookmark.